Public sector banks are protected from disclosing information relating to individual constituents including the amounts of bad debts written off and the accounts in which they are written off, as also the total quantum of bad and doubtful debts for which provision has been made to the satisfaction of their statutory auditors, in terms of the statutes governing them, in accordance with the practices and usages customary among bankers and also in accordance with the forms of Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Account prescribed in the Third Schedule of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, which all banks are required to follow strictly.

Credit against security of shares

*256. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minister of Finance has recently received a letter from the FICCI President requesting that the commercial banks should provide more credit against the security of shares and debentures;

(b) if so, what are the views of Government on the subject; and

(c) the details of the current level of credit provided against the security of shares and debentures in comparison to the total credit provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) The Government have recently received a letter from Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry suggesting measures for the revival of stock market. One of the suggestions is that more bank credit should be made available against the security of shares and debentures. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has already issued instructions laying down guidelines for deployment of incremental deposits in loans given against the security of shares and debentures. The matter relating to the role of banks in the development of capital market is reviewed by RBI from time to time, in the light of emerging situation and further measures taken as may be necessary consistent with overall banking and monetary policy.

The Reserve Bank of India has reported that data relating to disbursement of credit by banks is being classified sectorwise and purposewise and no separate classification is made against securitywise disbursement and, as such, the percentage of credit provided by banks against shares and debentures in relation to gross credit is not available.

Freight equalisation in iron and steel

*257. SHRI NARAYAN KAR:
SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) what are the considerations for backing out of the commitment given by Government to phase out freight equalisation in iron and steel; and

(b) whether the Eastern States which are adversely affected by the system were consulted before taking such a far-reaching decision, if so, when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) In the light of the representations received from various State Governments, the Government have reviewed the earlier decision to phase out freight equalisation in respect of iron and steel and have decided to refer the matter to the National Development Council.

दूरदर्शन पर अंग्रेजी कार्यक्रम

*258. श्रीमती वीणा वर्मा :
श्री अजीत जोगी :

क्या **सूचना और प्रसारण** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि दूरदर्शन के "राष्ट्रीय कार्यक्रम" के अंतर्गत दिखाये